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# ARUBA TODAY

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## U.S. halts online asylum appointments at Texas crossing

By VALERIE GONZALEZ and JULIE WATSON  
Associated Press

**LAREDO, Texas (AP)** — The Biden administration has stopped taking mobile app appointments to admit asylum-seekers at a Texas border crossing that connects to a notoriously dangerous Mexican city after advocates warned U.S. authorities that migrants were being targeted there for extortion.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection gave no explanation for its decision to stop scheduling new appointments via the CBP One app for the crossing in Laredo, Texas.

Several asylum-seekers told The Associated Press that Mexican officials in Nuevo Laredo, across the border from Laredo, Texas, had threatened to hold them and make them miss their scheduled asylum appointments unless they paid them.

Humanitarian groups in Laredo say they had recently warned CBP of the problems and that certain groups were controlling access to the international crossing on the Mexican side.



Migrants congregate on the banks of the Rio Grande at the U.S. border with Mexico, Dec. 20, 2022, where members of the Texas National Guard cordoned off a gap in the U.S. border wall.

Associated Press

Continued on Page 2



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## U.S. halts online asylum appointments at Texas crossing

Continued from Front

Migrant advocates say the situation in Nuevo Laredo, which is plagued by cartel fighting and other problems, casts doubt on the administration's argument that Mexico is a safe place for the record number of people fleeing violence in Central America and elsewhere.

Rafael Alvarez, 29, who fled Venezuela, said that after he landed in Nuevo Laredo in early June, Mexican immigration authorities at the airport seized his travel documents, including a printout of the email confirming his CBP One appointment, and demanded he pay 1,000 Mexican pesos, about \$57. He was held with other migrants.

"They would tell us covertly, 'You're going to put the money in this envelope and pass it to us,'" Alvarez said, recalling what officials told him and other migrants. The officials, he said, threatened to hold them so they would have their appointments canceled. Alvarez, whose appointment was the next day, said he refused to pay and was eventually released, but five Russians who were held with him paid a total of 5,000 pesos, about \$290. They initially were asked to fork over double that amount, but they told officials they did not have that much, he said.

Alvarez said other Venezuelan friends who flew to Nuevo Laredo in late May also paid to have their documents returned.

Thousands of asylum-seekers are stuck in Mexican border towns, waiting until they can get an appointment to seek refuge in the United States after being blocked during the COVID-19 pandemic by a pub-



**U.S. asylum-seekers being returned by U.S. authorities under the so-called Remain in Mexico program are escorted by a Mexican migration agent as they walk back into Nuevo, Laredo Mexico, across the international bridge from Laredo, Texas, Wednesday, July 10, 2019.**

Associated Press

lic health restriction called Title 42 that was lifted last month.

Though the government opened some new avenues for immigration, the fate of many people is largely left to the CBP One app that is used for scheduling an appointment at a port of entry.

The government said it would continue to open 1,250 appointments daily by reallocating the slots for Laredo to the seven other crossings along the U.S.-Mexico border. It vowed to honor online appointments issued for the Laredo crossing before the June 3 change. The government schedules appointments two weeks out.

CBP gives priority to people with an app appointment, though people can try to be admitted by going in person without one. Anyone who has an acute medical condition or is under an immediate threat of kidnapping or death also can ask to be admitted in

person.

Laredo was among the least busy crossings for asylum appointments, seeing only a fraction of appointments compared to San Diego and Brownsville.

There have been widespread complaints by migrants about being forced to pay bribes to Mexico's immigration sector, where corruption is deeply ingrained.

Earlier this month, the Mexican newspaper El Universal published video it obtained that was taken through a bus window, showing a federal agent taking bills from migrants and stuffing them in his pocket as he checked passports in the Pacific coast state of Jalisco.

The agency said it had suspended two of its agents there and that it does not tolerate the rights of migrants being violated.

The newspaper also obtained government documents through a freedom of information request that

showed the agency had opened 119 investigations against agents between 2017 and 2023 for misconduct.

Rebecca Solloa of Catholic Charities in Laredo said her organization and others met with CBP officials in person and on Zoom to warn them that migrants have told them that groups in Nuevo Laredo control the bridge and extort migrants there but she did not know who they are.

She said CBP "obviously received some sort of intel, or descriptions, or information from migrants coming through (about) what has happened to them."

"I'm kind of glad they did," she said, adding that the government's actions might have come because "this is happening way too much here at this border." It was unclear if the problem was isolated to Nuevo Laredo and if so, why.

Narsher Nuñez, 29, flew to Nuevo Laredo in early June with her 6-month-old son,

husband and adult nephew after securing an appointment in Mexico City through the app. She said she and her family were extorted at the airport.

The Venezuelan woman said Mexican officials took their documents and demanded they pay 1,500 pesos, or \$86, to get them back.

They were held for hours with a group of Chinese migrants, she said. Her husband said one official told them: "If I have a good heart, I'll send you to Guatemala. But if you catch me in a bad mood, I'll send you to Venezuela."

Eventually they paid and were released, she said. The next day, Nuñez and her family went to their appointment and were admitted to the United States.

"All the immigrants who were caught there, they took money from us," said Nuñez, who is staying with her family for now at a shelter in Laredo.

The Department of Homeland Security said in an email to the AP that CBP One has been instrumental in creating a more efficient and orderly system at the border "while cutting out unscrupulous smugglers who profit from vulnerable migrants."

The app was criticized for technological problems when it started Jan. 12. The government has made improvements in recent weeks, but demand has far outstripped supply, prompting many to consider crossing the border illegally or giving up.

The administration has said anyone who does not use legal channels will be deported back to their homeland and face being barred from being able to seek asylum in the U.S. for five years. □



# Biden will host outgoing NATO secretary-general Jens Stoltenberg

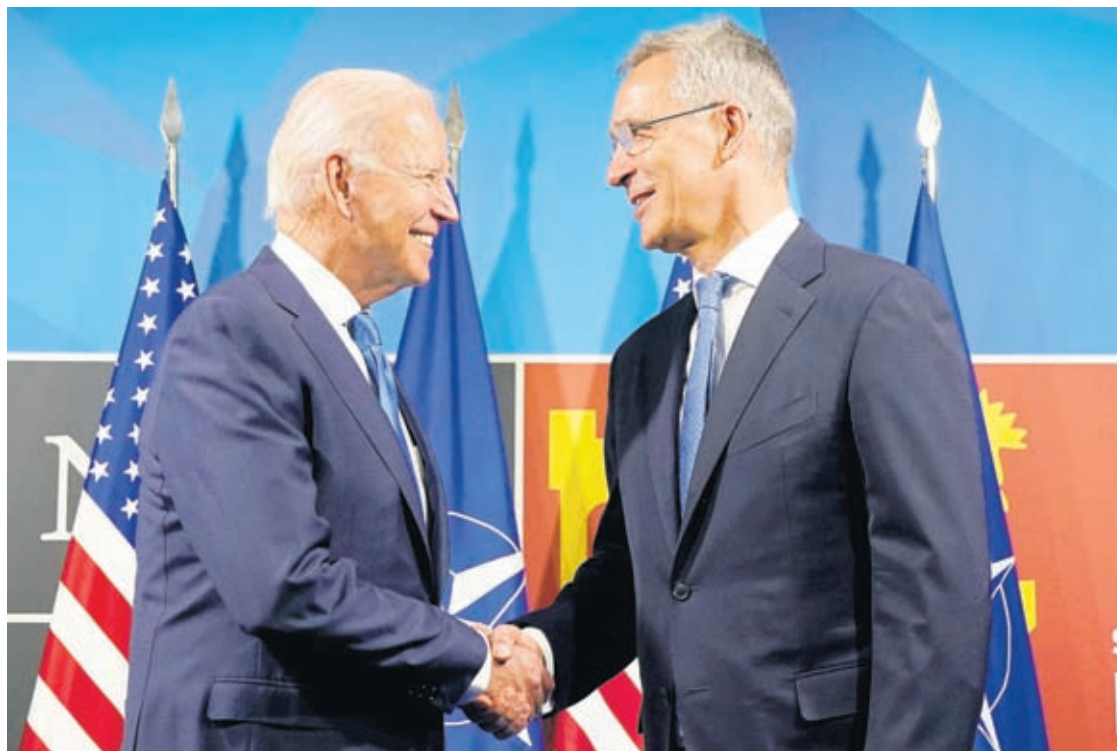
By AAMER MADHANI

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Joe Biden will welcome outgoing NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg to the White House for talks on Tuesday as the competition to find his successor to lead the military alliance heats up.

Stoltenberg, who has led the NATO since 2014 and has had his tenure extended three times, said earlier this year he would move on when his current term expires at the end of September. The jockeying to replace him is intensifying as leaders of the 31-member military alliance are set to meet next month for their annual summit in Vilnius, Lithuania. Stoltenberg is in the midst of a tour of NATO capitals to meet with leaders ahead of the summit.

The meeting with Biden originally was scheduled for Monday, but the White House announced it was being rescheduled for Tuesday because the president underwent an unexpected root canal procedure after experiencing dental pain. White House officials said that Tuesday's agenda would be wide-ranging but that there would be a particular focus on the war in Ukraine. White House National Security



President Joe Biden, left, is greeted by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg during arrivals for a NATO summit in Madrid, Spain on Wednesday, June 29, 2022.

Council spokesman John Kirby would not comment on whether Biden would ask Stoltenberg to extend again, but praised the former Norwegian prime minister for doing a "superb job" heading the alliance. Last week, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak made the case for U.K. Defense Minister Ben Wallace directly to Biden. The Democratic president also met with Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, another potential contender.

Asked about the NATO job

at a news conference with Sunak by his side, Biden called Wallace "very qualified" but noted that the conversation among NATO leaders to find a "consensus" pick to replace Stoltenberg was ongoing. Biden's opinion carries enormous weight as the U.S. spends more than any other member in the alliance on defense.

Frederiksen sought to play down her candidacy after she met with Biden last week. She declined to say whether she discussed the

coming vacancy with him, telling reporters that she did not want to go "further in these speculations about NATO." The alliance has never had a female secretary-general.

A British government official, who was not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity, said ahead of Sunak's visit that the British leader wants to be sure the next secretary general "carries on Stoltenberg's good work of modernization but also understands

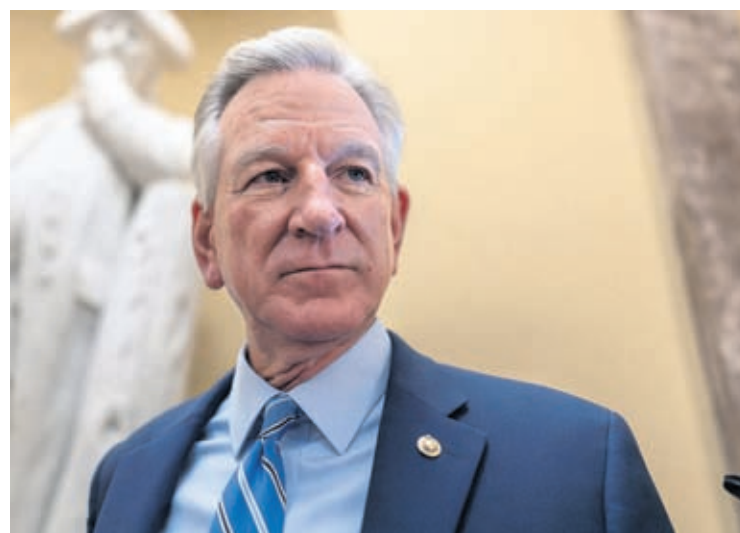
the importance of defense spending at this critical time."

Denmark has lagged behind NATO's target for members to spend 2% of gross domestic product on military budgets by 2030. But the centrist government announced late last month that it would look to invest 143 billion kroner (\$20.6 billion) in the country's defense over the next decade, citing a "serious threat picture."

At Monday's White House briefing, Kirby did not directly answer whether Biden could support someone from a country lagging on the defense spending benchmark.

"The President believes that whoever is the secretary-general of NATO should be an individual who the entire alliance can get behind and lead the alliance into the future because there's a transformative future ahead for the alliance," Kirby said. "Whenever this war ends, however it ends, NATO is going to be different." Biden and Stoltenberg are also expected to discuss Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine and efforts to persuade fellow NATO member Turkey to back off blocking Sweden from joining the military alliance. □

## Proposal to end Senate standoff over military promotions and abortion policy goes nowhere



Sen. Tommy Tuberville, R-Ala., a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, talks to reporters at the Capitol in Washington, May 16, 2023.

Associated Press

By TARA COPP

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Hopes were dashed Monday for an imminent end to a Senate standoff that has delayed the promotions of more than 200 military officers and could delay the confirmation of President Joe Biden's pick for chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Republican Sen. Tommy Tuberville of Alabama has been blocking the nominations to pressure the Defense Department to rescind a policy that reimburses service members

who have to travel out of state for abortions and other reproductive care. Alabama is among the states where abortion is now illegal.

A proposal to hold a Senate debate over Pentagon abortion policies as part of the annual defense bill negotiations was seen by some senators as the best prospect for getting Tuberville to lift those holds, but his office said Monday that Tuberville was opposed.

The hold affects everyone from four-star Air Force Gen. CQ Brown, who was nominated to serve as the

next chairman of the joint chiefs, to scores of one, two and three-star officers who are assigned to new base commands.

It also affects their families, who usually relocate over the summer to their new military communities so school-age children can get settled in before fall.

And it stretches to hundreds more younger military personnel who don't need Senate confirmation but are still effected by the hold because they are assigned to serve as staff or aides to the relocating generals. □



# Wisconsin's alcohol industry gets behind update, greater enforcement of laws

By **SCOTT BAUER**  
**Associated Press**

**MADISON, Wis. (AP)** — Wisconsin's craft brewers, including the maker of the popular Spotted Cow beer, large retailers like the Kwik Trip convenience store franchise and other producers, wholesalers and retailers are getting behind a rapidly moving proposal that would overhaul the state's alcohol laws and lead to stricter enforcement efforts. The measure, hammered out in secret the past five years largely between Republican lawmakers and the multi-billion dollar alcohol industry, is moving quickly through the GOP-controlled Legislature. It was introduced on Friday and was scheduled for a public hearing on Tuesday. The Legislature is expected to pass it in two weeks. Democratic Gov. Tony Evers' administration has also been involved with negotiations. Most of the changes would not be noticeable to average alcohol consumers in the state, those who worked closely on the bill said. But the creation of a new di-



In this Nov. 8, 2018, file photo, cases of beer are stacked next to each other in a Milwaukee liquor store.

**Associated Press**

vision to oversee liquor laws could lead to the enforcement of largely ignored current laws, like a ban on the shipping of liquor or beer directly to a customer made popular through "beer of the month" clubs and nationwide mail-order catalogs that feature hard-to-get bourbon or other spirits. "The public will have a

better sense that the laws governing alcohol will be enforced uniformly and fairly," said Scott Stenger, a lobbyist for the Tavern League of Wisconsin. The fact that all tiers of the industry are welcoming greater enforcement "sends a very powerful message" about the need for more clarity, Stenger said.

Those who worked on the measure with Republican legislative leaders say now is the time to update laws in a state that saw the birth of beer-giant Miller in Milwaukee and in recent years has seen an explosion of smaller craft brewers, like New Glarus Brewing Co. which makes Spotted Cow and other beers available for sale only in Wisconsin.

The bill affects every level of the state's alcohol industry governing the licensing, producing, selling and distribution of beer, wine and liquor.

The so-called three-tier system, created in the 1930s, has been eyed for changes for years, but policy makers and the alcohol industry have been unable to reach agreement.

The three-tiered system was designed to prevent monopolies so the same entity could not produce and sell alcohol at the wholesale and retail levels. But the system has been criticized for years for not keeping up with changes in the industry, including the explosion of smaller craft breweries, the popularity of wedding barns and other innovations. The measure would also allow for craft breweries to sell products from other out-of-state breweries. Wineries could open earlier in the morning, at the same time as bars, to sell their products. The bill would also create new guidance for contract brewing, wine-making and distilling, a growing segment of the industry. □

## 1 dead after tour boat capsizes in Erie Canal water tunnel cave in Lockport, New York

**LOCKPORT, N.Y. (AP)** — One person was killed and multiple people were sent to local hospitals after a boat capsized Monday during a tour of an underground cavern system built to carry water from the Erie Canal beneath the western New York city of Lockport, officials said. Police and fire crews were called to the Lockport Cave Tours, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) northeast of Niagara Falls, at about 11:30 a.m. The tours take visitors on an underground boat ride illuminated only by small lights. "The boat did a 180-degree turn, so the bottom of the boat was upright in the

water," Lockport Fire Chief Luca Quagliano said at a news conference. "A number of victims were on top

of that boat initially when rescuers got to them." He said all 29 people on board the flat-bottom boat



A boat moves through the double lock system on the Erie Canal in downtown Lockport, N.Y., Aug. 24, 1993.

**Associated Press**

were thrown into water between 5 feet and 6 feet deep when the boat apparently became unbalanced and capsized toward the end of the roughly 300-foot tunnel.

Some passengers were able to get to safety on their own. Rescue crews using an inflatable boat rescued about 16 others, he said. Authorities did not immediately release the name of the man who died. His wife was taken to a hospital, officials said.

"We have had eight of the passengers come into our ER," said Patricia Brandt, spokeswoman for Eastern Niagara Hospital in Lockport. "None critical. They're

all stable and some have already been released."

Brandt said she did not know the nature of the injuries but believed some were treated for cold from being in the water. Other patients went to other hospitals, she said, but did not have details. Jeremy Swiatowy, 42, watched as rescue workers breached the wall to the cave with a sledgehammer before shimmying through the hole to help rescue the remaining people inside. Swiatowy said local schoolchildren often take tours at the Lockport, and locals were concerned that children might have been on the boat that sent people into the chilling water. □



# U.S. decides to rejoin UNESCO and pay back dues, to counter Chinese influence

By ANGELA CHARLTON and MATTHEW LEE

Associated Press

**PARIS (AP)** — UNESCO announced Monday that the United States plans to rejoin the U.N. cultural and scientific agency — and pay more than \$600 million in back dues — after a decade-long dispute sparked by the organization's move to include Palestine as a member.

U.S. officials say the decision to return was motivated by concern that China is filling the gap left by the U.S. in UNESCO policymaking, notably in setting standards for artificial intelligence and technology education around the world.

The move will face a vote by UNESCO's member states in the coming weeks. But approval seems a formality after the resounding applause that greeted the announcement in UNESCO's Paris headquarters Monday. Not a single country raised an objection to the return of a country that was once the agency's single biggest funder.

The U.S. and Israel stopped financing UNESCO after it voted to include Palestine as a member state in 2011. The Trump administration



The Eiffel Tower, country flags and the Dome are seen from the garden of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) headquarters building during the 39th session of the General Conference at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

Associated Press

decided in 2017 to withdraw from the agency altogether the following year, citing long-running anti-Israel bias and management problems.

UNESCO's director general, Audrey Azoulay, has worked to address those concerns since her election in 2017, and that appears to have paid off.

"It's a historic moment for UNESCO," she said Monday.

"It's also an important day for multilateralism."

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources Richard Verma submitted a letter last week to Azoulay formalizing the plan to rejoin. He noted progress in depoliticizing debate about the Middle East and reforming the agency's management, according to the hand-delivered letter, obtained

by AP.

The decision is a big boost to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, known for its World Heritage program as well as projects to fight climate change and teach girls to read.

While Palestinian membership in UNESCO was the trigger for the U.S. fallout with the agency, its return is more about China's grow-

ing influence.

Undersecretary of State for Management John Bass said in March that the U.S. absence from UNESCO had strengthened China, and "undercuts our ability to be as effective in promoting our vision of a free world."

He said UNESCO was key in setting and shaping standards for technology and science teaching around the world, "so if we're really serious about the digital-age competition with China ... we can't afford to be absent any longer."

The U.S. decision doesn't address the status of Palestine. While it's a member of UNESCO, on the ground, the Palestinians are further away from independence than ever.

There have not been serious peace talks in over a decade, and Israel's new government is filled with hardliners who oppose Palestinian independence.

The only envoy who wasn't gushing with praise was China's ambassador, Jin Yang. He noted the negative impact of the U.S. absence, and expressed hope that the move means Washington is serious about multilateralism. □

# Watchdog: Nuclear states modernize their weapons, Chinese arsenal is growing

**STOCKHOLM (AP)** — The nine nuclear-armed states continue to modernize their arsenals and several deployed new nuclear-armed or nuclear-capable weapon systems in 2022, a Swedish think tank said Monday.

"We are drifting into one of the most dangerous periods in human history," said Dan Smith, director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, or SIPRI.

"It is imperative that the world's governments find ways to cooperate in order to calm geopolitical tensions, slow arms races and

deal with the worsening consequences of environmental breakdown and ris-

ing world hunger," he said in a statement.

SIPRI estimated that of the



Ukrainian emergency workers wearing radiation protection suits attend training in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine, on June 7, 2023.

Associated Press

total global inventory of 12,512 warheads in January 2023, some 9,576 were in military stockpiles for potential use which was 86 more than in January 2022. The independent institute listed the nuclear-armed states as the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel.

In its yearbook, the Swedish watchdog wrote that the United States and Russia each hold more than 1,000 warheads previously retired from military service, which they are gradually dismantling. As for China, SIPRI said

the size of country's nuclear arsenal had increased from 350 warheads in January 2022 to 410 in January 2023 and it is expected to keep growing.

"Depending on how it decides to structure its forces, China could potentially have at least as many intercontinental ballistic missiles as either the USA or Russia by the turn of the decade," SIPRI wrote.

The institute said that nuclear arms control and disarmament diplomacy had suffered major setbacks following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. □



# U.K. parliamentary committee to conclude 'partygate' inquiry

By SYLVIA HUI  
Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — A U.K. parliamentary committee was expected to publish this week a report on whether former Prime Minister Boris Johnson misled lawmakers over lockdown-flouting parties at his office, after lawmakers met Monday to conclude their inquiry. British media report that the results of the parliamentary Privileges Committee's highly anticipated investigation into Johnson's conduct could be published in the coming days. Ahead of the findings being made public, Johnson unexpectedly quit as a lawmaker on Friday and angrily accused political opponents of driving him out in a "witch hunt."

The former prime minister, 58, said the Privileges Committee told him he would be sanctioned for misleading Parliament over "partygate," a series of boozy gatherings in his office that broke strict pandemic restrictions that his govern-



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson reacts while leading a virtual news conference on the COVID-19 pandemic, inside 10 Downing Street in central London on Jan. 26, 2021.

Associated Press

ment had imposed on the country. He accused the seven-member committee, the majority of whose members come from his own Conservative party, of bias, calling it a "kangaroo court." In response, the commit-

tee said that Johnson had "impugned the integrity" of Parliament. Johnson's successor, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, backed the parliamentary committee. "This is a properly set up committee that the House (of Commons) has voted

to carry out their work," Sunak's spokesman, Max Blain, said Monday. "The government will in no way traduce or criticize the work of the committee who are doing exactly what Parliament has asked them to do."

The committee could have suspended Johnson from the House of Commons if he was found to have lied deliberately. A suspension of 10 days or more means that Johnson's constituents in his suburban London seat could petition to oust him and elect a new lawmaker. While Johnson's move to quit Parliament means he can no longer be suspended, the committee could choose to apply other sanctions like barring him from entering Parliament's grounds. Revelations that Johnson and his staff held office parties, birthday celebrations and "wine time Fridays" in 2020 and 2021, at a time when millions were prohibited from seeing loved ones or even attending family funerals, angered many Britons and added to a string of ethics scandals that spelled his downfall. Johnson resigned as prime minister last summer after a mass exodus of government officials in protest at his leadership. □

# Iraq urges countries to repatriate their citizens from camp housing families of extremist IS group

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA  
Associated Press

**BAGHDAD (AP)** — Iraq urged countries on Monday to repatriate their citizens from a sprawling camp in Syria housing tens of thousands linked to the extremist Islamic State group, saying it has become a "source for terrorism." The statements were made during a conference in Baghdad discussing al-Hol camp in northeast Syria. Iraqi officials, the U.N. representative in Iraq, some members of the international coalition fighting IS and ambassadors of several countries were present. Al-Hol Camp named after a town near the Iraqi border is an open wound left by Syria's 12-year conflict. Tens of thousands of people were taken to the facility after the extremist group's defeat in Syria in

March 2019.

The camp holds about 51,000 people, the vast majority women and children, including the wives, widows and other family members of IS militants, mostly Syrians

and Iraqis.

There are also around 8,000 women and children from 60 other nationalities who live in a part of the camp known as the Annex. They are generally considered

the most die-hard IS supporters among the camp residents.

There have been concerns that children at the camp were being taught extremist ideology by their mothers. Experts have warned that a future generation of IS fighters could emerge from al-Hol.

"Ending the issue of al-Hol camp has become a top national interest for Iraq," said Ahmad Sahhaf, Iraq's Foreign Ministry spokesman, according to the country's state news agency.

Sahhaf called on the international community to urge all countries that have citizens at the camp "to repatriate them as soon as possible in order to eventually close the camp" because it has become "a dangerous epicenter" for IS gatherings.

Iraq has repatriated 1,396

families from al-Hol constituting 5,569 of its citizens over the past weeks, said Iraq's National Security Adviser Qasim al-Araji who spoke at the conference. Despite the repatriations, some 25,000 Iraqis remain at the camp, making up nearly half its population.

The camp's population is down from 73,000 people, mostly because thousands of its Syrian and Iraqi inhabitants were allowed to return home.

But other countries have largely balked at taking back their nationals, who traveled to join IS after the radical group seized large parts of Iraq and Syria in 2014.

Despite the extremist group's defeat in Iraq in 2017 and Syria in 2019, IS sleeper cells still carry out deadly attacks in both countries. □



Iraqi National Security Advisor Qassim al-Araji, left, and U.N. special representative to Iraq Jeanine Henniss-Plasschaert, attend a conference about Al-Hol camp in Syria which hosts families of IS members, in Baghdad, Iraq, Monday, June 12, 2023.

Associated Press





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## Aruba's most family-friendly beaches

(Oranjestad)—One of the biggest concerns that parents have when travelling with their children is a guarantee of their safety and healthy enjoyment. Therefore, we thought it would be a great help to traveling parents to list off some of the most family-friendly beaches around the island.

**Baby Beach in San Nicolas**  
Baby Beach is one Aruba's most popular and visited beaches, and for good reason: This sandy and quiet lagoon is a great place for parents to sit back and relax while their children play in the shallow shores of the beach. Beside the relaxing atmosphere, there are also several services that may accommodate your stay, like a parking lot, sun tent

rentals, chairs, bathrooms and a snack bar right at the far left of the beach.

### Mangel Halto in Pos Chiquito

Mangel Halto is situated in the back streets of the Pos Chiquito city. Though there are several stairs on the sides of the beach cliff leading you down, the best spot for families to hang out is across the bridge, passed the mangrove trees near the entrance sign. Here, there are small and big palapas, perfect for big and small families to set up their belongings. In this area, the shore is also shallow, falling right around your knee before slowly getting deeper: perfect for kids to safely play.

### Eagle Beach/Palm Beach in the hotel area

Yet another highly popular beach sites, Eagle Beach and Palm Beach is where most of our visitors go to tan, swim or play in the white sand. Because they are near the low-rise and high-rise hotel areas, these beaches are the most accessible for visitors on foot. These beaches also offer many palapas free to use, but you can also rent chairs and tents. Much like Baby Beach, these sites are one of the best beaches for your children to play and build sand castles.

### Boca Catalina in Malmok

Boca Catalina is a small bay beach near the Malmok beach area further down



the hotel areas. Though it may not be a very sandy beach, it is relatively quiet and tranquil. This is a great place for family to lay down a big blanket and have a little picnic. This is also one of the best places to snorkel, as this area is filled with little fish and corals, even close to the shore.

### Palm Island

Ok, this one is technically not a beach, but a must-visit attraction for family fun. This small water park oasis is located further down the Mangel Halto Beach and is reachable by boat. This water park offers 6 hours of fun activities, food, drinks, and a chance to see pink flamingoes up close! □

## Department of Public Health: What to do during and after a hurricane has passed (edition 3)

(Oranjestad)—Those who follow the recommendations given by the Department of Public Health in collaboration with the Disaster Management Bureau regarding hurricane preparedness step by step can ensure they are better prepared than those who haven't prepared.

As a hurricane approaches closer, we will hear, see, listen, and feel its effects more and more. During the passage of a hurricane, it is important to:

- Stay inside the designated space for sheltering during the hurricane.

- Listen and follow official instructions from the Disaster Management Bureau or the government for news and updates.
- In case it becomes necessary to evacuate your home for safety reasons, do so together with your family to a location as close as possible, such as a neighbor's house or a nearby family member's residence.
- Remember to bring the emergency kit with you wherever your family goes.

### Immediately after the hurricane:

- Stay informed by following information provided by relevant

authorities.

- Avoid unnecessary travel and driving on the roads, especially in areas with flooded roads or buildings.
- Provide first aid to those in need.
- Be cautious when inspecting your home and check for gas leaks, water meter damage, or broken power lines. Close or disconnect them if possible.
- First, ensure the safety of yourself and your family, and then assist those nearby who require help. In case of EMERGENCY, call 911 or 100.

### The following days after the hurricane:

After the passage of a hurricane, the restoration process begins, not only in terms of material property but also emotional restoration. For many, experiencing a hurricane can be a traumatic or sad event, which is why it is important to listen

to others and provide a shoulder to cry on and support when needed. When it comes to property and home restoration, be careful when cleaning inside and outside of the house. Dispose of any food that may pose a health hazard to yourself and your family, such as food that has been soaked in floodwater or has been defrosted. Also, remove any broken and dangerous materials from your surroundings, such as glass or debris.

The days following a hurricane can be difficult, filled with anxiety and uncertainty. The best advice is to seek shelter, comfort, and support from close family members.

For more information, like our Facebook page "Directie Volksgezondheid DVG Aruba," follow us on Instagram @directie\_volksgezondheid\_aruba, visit our website [www.dvg.aw](http://www.dvg.aw), call us at 5224200, or email us at [servicio@dvg.aw](mailto:servicio@dvg.aw). □








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Known for their successful and top-notch establishments Amuse Bistro and Amuse Sunset, Chef Patrick van der Donk and his wife Yvette, who is a certified sommelier, are back with their latest gastronomic adventure that is now to be found at The Journey, beside the famous red windmill (De Olde Moulin) just off Eagle Beach, and will surely bring a brand new concept to take you on a culinary journey you will never forget.

A family of 5, Chef Patrick, his wife Yvette and their 8 year old triplet sons, started their trajectory about a decade ago, with the renowned and loved Amuse Bistro that saw immense success. Due to a tragic incident in which the restaurant burned down, they gathered all their strength and continued their success at a new location behind the airport, as a brand new beginning named Amuse Sunset until they saw it come to an end. After overcoming unforeseen circumstances like the pandemic, the family is stronger than ever and reading to begin a new adventure and welcome you aboard.

The Journey offers a brand new, elegant and chic concept. Taking the table in 'Chef's Table' to heart, this new interpretation of 'chef's table' features stand-alone tables which seat only 20 patrons, all who must arrive before 7pm. Once you choose to embark on this adventure, the night will start once you arrived at your destination, right next to the mill in Palm Beach, where you will be welcomed with a toast of bubbles (on the house) on the terrace while you wait for the beginning of an unforgettable night. Once the clock hits 7pm, you will be taken into the restaurant for a magical five-course Chef's choice pre-fixed menu that will take your taste buds on a high class world tour.

You can opt to pair your courses with the sommelier's expertly curated choice of fine wines by the glass or order a bottle from their impressive wine list. With an open kitchen concept, you get to witness the chef bring his inspiration and creations to life. By the end of the night, you are guaranteed to have made a few new friends with whom you've enjoyed a wonderful experience of culinary bliss.

The Journey is open from Mon-Fri and is reservation only, we ask that all guests with a reservation arrive before 7pm. For further questions or information, refer to their website <https://thejourneyaruba.com/> or contact Yvette at +297 565 0535

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## Aruba's Nature is to be Cherished

**ST. CRUZ** — The national park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There is numerous wildlife to discover like for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches. There are more places on the island that are a preserved area like the Bubali Plas which is a bird sanctuary.



The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place

below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches. A very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

### Bubali Magic

This beautiful close-up image of the pink bird is courtesy of Michiel Oversteegen of the Aruba Birdlife

Conservation. This important foundation showcases and builds awareness of Aruba's birds and other native flora and fauna. You may have seen a 'pink cloud' lately at the Bubali or Spanish Lagoon Wetlands areas? It's most likely to be Roseate Spoonbills (*Ajaia ajaja*) or 'Chucharon Cora' as they are known in Papiamentu. This unusual looking bird forages in shal-

low muddy water while sweeping its flattened bill from side to side to catch small fish, crustaceans and other aquatic invertebrates. The Roseate Spoonbill remains an uncommon sight as they are vulnerable to degradation of feeding and nesting habitats (Wetlands). (Source: arikok national park)

The aforementioned is just

a part of what Aruba's nature has to offer. We cannot stress enough to go, see for yourself. The island has the most beautiful beaches but it is also worthwhile to go beyond this and get an idea of our entire island. Lately there is a discussion going on about the effect certain activities have on our nature, for example the ATV vehicles cause a lot of dust, noise and leave tire tracks. Animals live in these areas where the vehicles run, often with high speed and with detrimental consequences to flora and fauna. Motorized vehicles are forbidden to drive on the sand dunes in the Northern part of the island and all beaches in Aruba are forbidden for any motorized vehicle. Treasure our island to enjoy it like you do: as a tropical and natural paradise. We truly appreciate it! □







## Fruit Loose & Veggie Boost: Aruban fruits and vegetables

Fresh fruits make a tropical holiday's picture complete. Whether you see the mangoes hanging in the trees or the fresh fruit cocktail on the side table of your pool bed, the link is there: you are in the tropics. Aruba grows her own fruits and veggies and there are some pretty out-of-space local species you may never had heard of, but really healthy and delicious.

### Mispel

This is a fruit with a character (5-10 cm/2-4 inches). It does not ripe until it is picked or falls off the tree. Mispel is hard with a sandpaper like texture when immature, soft and juicy when ripe. It's technically a berry, but contains a skin similar to that of a kiwi. It's grainy and sweet, with a light, musky flavor. The sap or gum from the tree is also a source of 'chicle' the original ingredient used to make chewing gum. Rich in tannins, antioxidants shown to contain anti-inflammatory compounds, and vitamin C, essential for healthy immune function. Season: year-round.



### Kenepa

Ovoid green fruit that grows in bunches on trees up to 30m high. The fruit is related to the lychee and have tight, thin but rigid skins. Inside the skin is the tart, tangy, or sweet pulp of the fruit covering a large seed. The pulp is usually cream or orange colored. Kenepa strengthens the immune system, and prevents the reproduction of bacteria and viruses in the body. This fruit is highly recommended to treat lung infections and urinary tract infections. It also helps to cure insomnia and rejuvenates the nervous system. Season: the fruit typically ripen during the summer.



### Druif

There is no chance you did not bump into one of the sea grape trees while spending your vacation on Aruba. The sea grape plant is often used in ocean-side landscaping in sandy soil right on the beach and it produces clusters of fruit that resemble grapes. Are sea grapes edible? Yes, they are. Animals enjoy sea grapes and humans can eat them as well, and they are used to make jam. They contain very low calories and sugar, enabling good bacterium to digest food and excrete waste quickly which is effective in preventing constipation. Season: Sep-Oct.



### Shimarucu

Maybe Aruba's most popular wild fruit tree. You may have noticed cars at the side of the road and people picking those red berries. Well, that's Shimarucu. The local habit to stop for these delicious fruits goes from generation to generation. Its fruit's degree of sour depends on the amount of rain it gets. Red Shimarucus tend to taste better than orange. The fruit has super power: a true vitamin bomb. Adults only need to eat 3-4 of these berries to meet their daily recommended amount of Vitamin C. Season: Rainy months (Oct-Jan).

### Tamarind

A delicious, sweet fruit that has a wide variety of uses and applications, both for medicinal and culi-

nary purposes. It is a medium-sized bushy tree with evergreen leaves and fruit that develops in pods characterized by long, brown shells. Inside is a sticky, fleshy, juicy pulp, which is the Tamarind fruit. Both sweet and sour in taste, the fruit contains a significant level of vitamin C, as well as vitamin E, B vitamins, calcium, iron, phosphorous, potassium, manganese, and dietary fiber. There are also a number of organic compounds that make tamarind a powerful antioxidant and anti-inflammatory agent. Season: March.

When it comes to veggies the island certainly offers a home-grown selection. They taste delicious and have their specific talents to boost your immune system. Start the day with a 'batida' (smoothie) enriched with a local veggie touch or select your restaurant that offers local vegetable dishes to get the real pure taste of it.



### Comcomber chiquito

This is a sort of local squash, but looks like a cucumber with prickly skin. The taste however is bitterer than the cucumber and the vegetable is smaller in size but bigger in width. Inside is a soft, fleshy pulp and seeds, just like the cucumber. Comcomber chiquito is grown in the island and used in salads and 'stoba' (stew) or on its own in vinegar. The veggie contains multiple B vitamins, including vitamin B1, vitamin B5, and vitamin B7 (biotin). B vitamins are known to help ease feelings of anxiety and buffer some of the damaging effects of stress. Additionally this veggie is rich in two of the most basic elements needed for healthy digestion: water and fiber. Season: year-round.

### Yambo

Family of Okra, also known as 'lady's fingers': a green flowering plant. Okra belongs to the same plant family as hibiscus and cot-

ton. A classic favorite dish in Aruba is Sopi di yambo. It has long been favored as a food for the health-conscious. It contains potassium, vitamin B, vitamin C, folic acid, and calcium. It's low in calories and has a high dietary fiber content. Recently, a new benefit of including okra in your diet is being considered. Okra has been suggested to help manage blood sugar in cases of type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes. Season: year-round.

### Bonch'i Cunucu

A long, small bean, boiled for a side dish or snack. Long beans have a chewy, crunchy texture—more so than snap beans—and a flavor reminiscent of the dry navy bean or asparagus. Besides stir-fry, soups and salads, the long bean is a good choice for stewing, braising (to remain chewy and firm), sautéing, shallow frying, and deep frying. With cooking, the long bean's bean flavor intensifies. Long beans are low in calories, about 45 calories per cup, and rich in vitamin A and also contain vitamin C and potassium. Season: year-round.



### Pampuna

In the endless summer of Caribbean living we only have to concern ourselves with a wet season and a dry season. Still we do indulge heavily in the pleasures of pumpkin and enjoy Caribbean pumpkin recipes year round. A popular dish in Aruban restaurants is Sopa Di Pompuna, don't miss it. This dish is made of pumpkin soup, and parsley. Pumpkins are rich in flavonoid polyphenolic antioxidants such as xanthin, lutein and carotenes and also contain vitamins. Pumpkin seeds are a good source of omega-3 fatty acids, vitamins, minerals and proteins. Pumpkins are used to make desserts, breads and soups. □



## The Savaneta Neighborhood Center is going to celebrate Dera Gay



(Oranjestad)—Vanessa de Kort, project leader at the Savaneta Neighborhood Center, has informed that on June 24th, they will be celebrating Dera Gay\* at the neighborhood center to continue enriching the culture of Aruba.

The evening will begin at 6:00 PM and culminate at 10:00 PM with musical performances by Frank Croes and his Tipico Pega Saya, Masiduri dance group, Nos Cultura group, and as a special guest, Ivy and her group. Additionally, there will be Dera Gay competitions in the categories of children, youth, and adults. At the same time, they will also have a competition for the best Dera Gay attire. The purpose of this evening is to enhance the culture of Aruba. De Kort expressed the intention of revitalizing the neighborhood center, which has seen a significant decrease in activities since the Covid-19 pandemic. She mentioned that they

want to restore the neighborhood center's function. "We have already started with a few volleyball competitions. Savaneta is known for its volleyball and indoor soccer. The groups that were always there were Savaneta Six Stars, La Fama, Racket Club, and all those groups that had already established themselves. Now, we want to bring back the more recreational aspect that made Savaneta great in the 60s, 70s, and 80s." The intention is also to raise funds to renovate the neighborhood center. The stage, which is from the 1930s and has served as a theater, has lost its name and importance in recent years. De Kort mentioned that they want to bring it back and restore it not only for theater but also for dance, singing, and other activities.

De Kort emphasized that the costs for restoring the stage require a significant amount of money, and

they have not yet made a budget for it. Nevertheless, they are aware that it is something that requires sufficient funding.

Furthermore, they are planning to organize more activities to restore the soccer and volleyball fields. The roof of the venue also needs attention, as there are many things that require repairs.

De Kort made a call to the residents, requesting active volunteers who are willing to participate and contribute to the work and effort needed for these activities. Registration to participate in the Dera Gay event is free, as mentioned by De Kort. Those interested can contact her at (+297) 594 4570.

Dera Gay is a celebration with various origins and histories. The cultural festival of San Juan (St. John the Baptist), known locally as Dera Gay, dates back to 1862 and is celebrated every year on June 24th. The origin story of this religious and cultural festival has several versions.

The religious origin is associated with the birth date of St. John the Baptist, while the cultural origin is tied to the harvest festival. Although it has a religious aspect, Dera Gay is predominantly recognized as a cultural festival featuring music, dance, and singing. The dominant colors are red and yellow. Yellow symbolizes the flowering kibrahacha tree, while red represents the candle that is



lit on the eve to announce the festival of the following day.

According to tradition, the festival begins on June 23rd when people light cornstalks as a symbolic cleansing to prepare for the new harvest season. On June 24th, after sunset, the celebration of San Juan starts in different districts with Dera Gay dance, candle dance, and flag dance. The candle dance is performed for protection against illness and bad luck. The most well-known dance is the Dera Gay, where a man, with his eyes covered and a stick in his hand, attempts to kill the "gay" (rooster). Previously, this dance took place in open fields with a live rooster.

Today, a dummy is used, and the dance takes place in clubs. Those who still perform the dance in the fields

or on the ground use a calabash. There is also a flag dance, where small flags are placed on the ground, and a person with their eyes covered by a cloth searches for the flags. The ceremony is accompanied by folk music.

The prominent musical instruments are the fio, wiri, and tambu. The Dera Gay chant dates back to 1862. Of course, this celebration is not complete without traditional local food and drinks. The festival of San Juan and Dera Gay regained popularity in the 1970s among the local population, and schools also started paying attention to this popular festival. "San Juan is coming, San Juan is going."

**\*Dera Gay: The word "gay" in Papiamentu means "rooster", and is pronounced like "guy".** □





# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 40 TV's De-Genres
  - 1 Tibetan monks
  - 6 Sports data
  - 11 Dote on
  - 12 Subject
  - 13 Fighter of remote fires

- DOWN**
- 15 "My country — of thee"
  - 16 Supply voices for
  - 17 Wisdom bringer
  - 18 Poet Wallace
  - 20 Un-cooked
  - 21 Hot blood
  - 22 Office note
  - 23 Is overly fond
  - 26 Wife of Menelaus
  - 27 Nights before
  - 28 So far
  - 29 Cariou of "Blue Bloods"
  - 30 Left the group
  - 34 Stretch of years
  - 35 Purr producer
  - 36 Yale student
  - 37 Sociable diner

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S	W	E	E	T	T	A	L	K	E
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R	A	R	E	R	A	R	E	N	A
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## Yesterday's answer

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|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1 Survives   | 10 Attach,   | 28 Casual     |
| 2 Concede    | as a jar lid | assent        |
| 3 Caribou's  | 14 Flag Day  | 30 Fragrance  |
| cousin       | month        | 31 Bus        |
| 4 Place of   | 19 Competes  | terminal      |
| refuge       | 22 Parcel    | 32 Kagan      |
| 5 Farmers,   | (out)        | of the        |
| at times     | 23 Takes     | Supreme       |
| 6 Ticket     | out          | Court         |
| 7 Huck's pal | 24 Compre-   | 33 More       |
| 8 Duds       | hensive      | dreadful      |
| 9 Reason     | 25 Easily    | 38 Director   |
| for          | defended     | Spike         |
| overtime     | 26 Brow-     | 39 Fraternity |
|              | beats        | letter        |

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42					43				

6-13

## AXYDLBAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

6-13

## CRYPTOQUOTE

WJRX PA FGX FPSX CEH LXP RK  
PR FGX IEHQB PR RXI IYZA.  
CEH FGHEIPRK ECC FGX OEQB  
YRB BYHU ADEFA EC QPCX.  
— WEYR B. OGPFFPAFXH

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IN THE SPRING, AT THE END OF THE DAY, YOU SHOULD SMELL LIKE  
NIP. MARGARET ATWOOD

# Liz Weston: You'll probably live longer than you think

By LIZ WESTON  
of NerdWallet

Women often don't score as well as men in surveys of financial literacy. One area where we seem to do better is "longevity literacy," or understanding how long we're likely to live.

Longevity literacy is essential to smart retirement planning. Overestimate your longevity, and you could retire too late or scrimp too much. Underestimate it and you could run short of money.

In a recent TIAA Institute study, 43% of women correctly estimated the life expectancy of 60-year-old women in the U.S. (The right answer was 85.) Only 32% of men chose the correct answer for the life expectancy for 60-year-old men, which was 82. Men also were far more likely than women to underestimate life expectancy and that's a huge potential problem for both sexes.

A man who expects to die in his 70s might draw too much from retirement funds or start Social Security too early. That could leave him and the spouse who may outlive him with too little income later on.

"A lot of people do OK in their first 10 years or 15 years of retirement," says actuary Steve Vernon, a former research scholar at the Stanford Center on Longevity. "It's often in their late 70s and 80s that they started to struggle."

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT LIFE EXPECTANCY

The life expectancy statistics that often make headlines aren't the ones that matter for retirement planning, Vernon says.



This undated file photo provided by NerdWallet shows Liz Weston, a columnist for personal finance website NerdWallet.com.

Associated Press

For example, in December the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention noted that U.S. life expectancy dropped for the second year in a row. But the number the CDC cited 76.4 years is life expectancy from birth. That figure includes infant mortality as well as the accidents, diseases, overdoses, homicides and suicides that end lives too early.

The thing about longevity is that it's persistent. The longer you live, the longer you are likely to live. One out of three men and 1 in 2 women in their mid-50s will live to 90, according to the Society of Actuaries. There's a 50% chance that at least one member of a heterosexual married couple age 65 will be alive at 92.

With longer lives comes "longevity risk": the chance that people will outlive their savings. Understanding and addressing that risk is an important element of retirement planning, but

most Americans are falling short, says Surya Kolluri, head of the TIAA Institute, which conducts research on financial security.

## MOST PEOPLE ARE LONGEVITY ILLITERATE

More than half of Americans don't understand how long people tend to live in retirement, according to a 2022 survey of more than 3,500 adults nationwide by the TIAA Institute and the Global Financial Literacy Excellence Center at the George Washington University School of Business.

The annual survey, known as the Personal Finance Index, has traditionally measured financial literacy. Last year, the researchers added a longevity question with a multiple choice answer. Men were asked "What is life expectancy among 60-year-old men in the U.S.?" while women were asked "What is life expectancy among 60-year-old women in the U.S.?" (The correct answers were determined by Social Security actuarial data from 2019.) Men and women were about equally likely to say they didn't know the correct answer or choose the answer that overestimated life expectancy by six years. But 31% of men selected the answer that underestimated life expectancy by six years, compared to 19% of women.

Researchers aren't sure why more women than men demonstrated longevity literacy, Kolluri says. One hypothesis is that women are traditionally more involved in caregiving for older relatives and thus better acquainted with the realities of aging. □

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# Rachel Maddow's 'Deja News' podcast a boon to fans who like her historical tangents

By **DAVID BAUDER**

AP Media Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Rachel Maddow has something special for anyone who appreciates the occasional digressions into history on her weekly MSNBC show. She and her longtime producer, Isaac-Davy Aronson, debuted the first episode of "Rachel Maddow Presents: Deja News" on Monday. The six-episode podcast looks at historical incidents that can teach us lessons about current events.

The first program, about a little-remembered Feb. 6, 1934, riot outside the parliament building in Paris has obvious parallels to the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol insurrection in Washington.

"If Jan. 6 was history repeating itself in some form, does that help us?" Maddow asks in the episode. "Does that help us in our understanding of what Jan. 6 meant and what we should do about it going forward? Would it be comforting to us to know that this really wasn't the first time, or would we be just even more weirded out about it?" Both of Maddow's prior podcasts have roots in history: "Bag Man" was about former Vice President Spiro Agnew, and "Ultra" examined American extremists. "I have this soft spot for history as an explanatory thing," she told The Associated Press. "I'm a completist. If you tell me something is going on geologically,



MSNBC television anchor Rachel Maddow, host of "The Rachel Maddow Show," moderates a panel at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, at Harvard University, in Cambridge, Mass., on Oct. 16, 2017.

Associated Press

I want to know about the formation of the star that created the solar system, that created that planet, that created that rock."

"Deja News" is the nickname that "The Rachel Maddow Show" privately uses for some of its historical segments. While they can occasionally test a viewer's patience during a TV show get to the point, Rachel! the stories are perfect for a podcast. Extra time allows the podcast to more thoroughly examine the historical similarities and grapple with what may come next, Aronson said. "Having that time and space to breathe is really great," he said.

A day after the Paris riot,

the new head of France's government resigned and was replaced by someone more conservative precisely what the demonstrators wanted. Yet the incident united leftists, and led to the election of a much more liberal government two years later.

Nearly 90 years later, though, like-minded French citizens honor leaders of the far-right riot with rallies commemorating the day and visits to the grave of its leader. In Maddow's view, news is too often covered in a vacuum, when a passing knowledge of history can put things into better perspective.

"Recognizing that some

of these problems are recurrent, rather than truly novel, doesn't make the problems any smaller," she said. "It just makes me more confident in my ability to keep engaging, to not shut down, to not be overly scared or intimidated by the scale of a problem and to think about it with the help of people like us in previous generations who had to contend with the problem before."

It also underscores the importance of who is in charge of writing and teaching history, she said. Anticipation for "Deja News," which has a logo starring an inquisitive groundhog, put it near

the top of Apple's podcast chart before being released. New episodes will come out every Monday, with the second one showing how Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' battles with woke politics and the LGBTQ community echo an effort from nearly 60 years ago.

"It's great," she said of the reduced workload. "It has absolutely saved my life." Five nights a week on TV was burning her out. She initially resisted the once-a-week schedule, not wanting to do a magazine-type review of the week's news. Instead, they hit upon the trick of doing it as if it were just another daily show, focused on that day's news. She's immersed in other projects. Besides "Deja News," she's adapting "Bag Man" and "Ultra" into movies, finishing a book that will be out this fall and making a scripted TV series about a group of women in post-World War II Washington that is being held up by the writer's strike.

"I need to learn time management," she said. "I'm actually probably working more hours than I used to. My girlfriend thought I was going to have more time off and more time to spend with her." She appears on MSNBC during big events, like last Thursday, when news broke that former President Donald Trump had been indicted. But she said she's been energized by the ability to try new things. □

# Oscar-winning director-producer Ed Zwick writing memoir

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Oscar-winning director-producer Ed Zwick is working on a memoir, with all the highs and the lows and in-betweens.

Gallery Books, a division of Simon & Schuster Inc., announced Monday that Zwick's "Hits, Flops, and Other Illusions: My Fortysomething Years in Hollywood," will be published Feb. 13. Zwick's directing credits include "Glory" and "Legends of the Fall," for which he received Golden Globe nominations; along with the less suc-

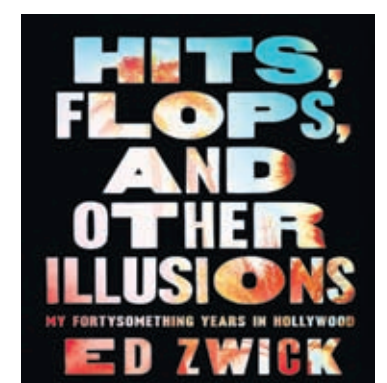
cessful "Pawn Sacrifice" among others.

He also was a co-creator of the highly regarded TV series "Thirtysomething." He won a best picture Academy Award as one of the producers of "Shakespeare In Love," and he was nominated as a producer of "Traffic." According to Gallery, the book will trace "the head spinning ascents and vertiginous plunges that define a career in Hollywood."

Zwick, 70, has worked with such top

stars as Tom Cruise, Leonardo DiCaprio, Annette Bening and Bruce Willis. "Even as the business undergoes yet another seismic shift, those of us who do the actual work (as opposed to those who hoard the lion's share of its profits) have no choice but to keep going," Zwick said in a statement.

"This book is my attempt to understand that impulse. And to celebrate it in all its absurdities, ambivalences, and grace." □



This cover image released by Gallery Books shows "Hits, Flops, and Other Illusions: My Fortysomething Years in Hollywood," by Ed Zwick.

Associated Press



# Top teams not worried when NASCAR Cup Series takes only break

By **GREG BEACHAM**

AP Sports Writer

**SONOMA, Calif. (AP)** — The relentless grind of the NASCAR Cup Series pauses this week, and just about everybody involved with the cars is looking to take advantage.

Martin Truex Jr. plans to go fishing after claiming his second victory of the season on Sunday at Sonoma Raceway. Aric Almirola's wife and children were in wine country to watch his surprising Xfinity Series victory at Sonoma on Saturday because they're all spending the next 10 days in California, surfing and hiking and going to a Dodgers game on Father's Day.

NASCAR's schedule in its top flight is famously busy: This is the teams' sole week-end without a race between the Daytona 500 on Feb. 19 and the Cup Series championship at Phoenix on Nov. 5. But for the teams and drivers doing their best work now, it's natural to wonder whether the break could slow their momentum right before the start of the 10-race sprint to the eight-race Cup playoffs. Kyle Busch is the hottest driver on the grid, with four straight top-10 finishes, cul-



**Martin Truex Jr. drinks wine after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Sonoma Raceway, Sunday, June 11, 2023, in Sonoma, Calif.**

Associated Press

minating in a victory outside St. Louis and a second-place finish behind Truex in Sonoma.

"I mean, I don't know if I want an off week," Busch said Sunday, wearing the closest facial expression he ever makes to a smile. "Let's go, right? We're rolling right now."

"It'll be a good break for everybody to regroup and refocus and set in for the last 18 in a row," Busch added. "All in all, just real

proud of the guys and the communication and the way they're able to go to work and kind of work through some of our issues and try to improve on what I need to be able to feel in a race car to be able to put out finishes like that. If we can keep doing those things, we'll be a force." In truth, Busch and his Richard Childress Racing Chevrolet team are already a force.

He won at Fontana last

February in only his second race for his new team after a 15-year tenure at Joe Gibbs Racing. After a few early season bumps, he has surged up to sixth in the driver standings with a playoff spot secure through his three victories tied with William Byron for the Cup wins lead.

Truex and his team also are on a roll, with two victories and four top-five finishes in the last six races. His only finish outside the top 10 in

this stretch was last month at Darlington, where he won the pole and had a dominant car that led the most laps before collisions with Ross Chastain and Joey Logano knocked him out of the race.

"I don't know that it really matters," Truex said of the one-week break. "We've got a great team. We know what we are capable of now. We have a lot of confidence back that we lacked last year in our decision-making, whether it was strategy or whatever. It seems like things are clicking right now. I don't know that an off week will change anything. We could probably use a few more off weeks before the playoffs, if I'm being honest with you, but we don't get those, so I'm ready whenever." □

The improvements by Truex's JGR team and Toyota were the talk of the paddock after his dominant victory at Sonoma, with Gibbs and crew chief James Small praising their ability to learn from a disappointing 2022. They're a clear championship contender after Truex went to the top of the overall driver standings in Sonoma. □

# Djokovic returns to ATP No. 1; Swiatek stays at WTA No. 1

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**

AP Tennis Writer

**PARIS (AP)** — Novak Djokovic returned to No. 1 in the ATP rankings on Monday, replacing Carlos

Alcaraz there, after winning the French Open for a men's-record 23rd Grand Slam title.

Djokovic now will add to the record he already held

for the most weeks leading the tennis rankings men's or women's since the computerized system was set up a half-century ago.

"So, of course, when you talk about history, people mostly talk about the Grand Slams won or the amount of time you spent at the No. 1 rankings," Djokovic said. "I have managed to break the records in both of these statistics, which is amazing."

Iga Swiatek, the women's champion at Roland Garros, kept her spot atop the WTA rankings, where she has been for more than a year. She could have been overtaken by No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka, depending on the results in Paris.

Djokovic had been No. 3 going into the year's sec-

ond major tournament, but winning it for the third time after exiting in the quarterfinals a year ago provided the points boost he needed to jump up to No. 1. He defeated Alcaraz 6-3, 5-7, 6-1, 6-1 in the semifinals on Friday, then got past Casper Ruud 7-6 (1), 6-3, 7-5 in the final on Sunday. □

It gave Djokovic three championships at Roland Garros, adding to his 10 from the Australian Open, seven from Wimbledon and three from the U.S. Open. He had been tied with rival Rafael Nadal with 22 major trophies.

Alcaraz dropped to No. 2, Daniil Medvedev slid one place to No. 3 after a first-round exit in Paris, while Ruud remained at No. 4.

Nadal hasn't played since

January because of a hip injury and so was unable to defend his title at the French Open. The inactivity sent him out of the Top 100 on Monday, to No. 136.

Swiatek earned her third French Open trophy in four years and her fourth Grand Slam title overall with a 6-2, 5-7, 6-4 victory over Karolina Muchova on Saturday. Swiatek has been at No. 1 since April 2022, when she moved there after Ash Barty retired.

Sabalenka, who won the Australian Open in January, had a chance to overtake Swiatek but lost in the semifinals in Paris to Muchova after holding a match point. Muchova soared all the way from 43rd to a career-high 16th in the rankings. □



**Serbia's Novak Djokovic celebrates winning the men's singles final match of the French Open tennis tournament against Norway's Casper Ruud in three sets, 7-6, (7-1), 6-3, 7-5, at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Sunday, June 11, 2023.**

Associated Press



# For this U.S. Open in L.A., fairways look wider than they really are

By **DOUG FERGUSON**

AP Golf Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Rickie Fowler was walking toward his golf ball in the 18th fairway on a cool, cloudy Sunday afternoon when he looked to his right and to his left and asked a most unusual question for any U.S. Open but this one. “Are these the widest fairways for a U.S. Open?” he said.

There's a lot different about a U.S. Open at Los Angeles Country Club, and that goes beyond the second-oldest championship in golf being held on the edge of Beverly Hills.

The U.S. Open hasn't had Bermuda rough in play off the fairways since 2005 at Pinehurst No. 2, and yet the greens on the North course are bentgrass.

As for the fairways? True, this is one of the widest U.S. Open courses. But it might help to put a notice several tee boxes that says, “Targets are smaller than they appear.”

“Looks big,” Fowler said. “Plays small.”

Another big change for this U.S. Open is the topic of conversation. The U.S. Open comes one week after the PGA Tour announced



**A U.S. Open Championship trophy is displayed at the ninth hole at Los Angeles Country Club on Sept. 26, 2022, in Los Angeles.**

the Saudi Arabian wealth fund it had been battling in court over LIV Golf is now its partner in a new for-profit commercial company. No one knows what this means for LIV Golf and the players that defected, or the PGA Tour and how to appease players who chose to stay. “I know the same amount of information you do. It's very tough to make any kind of comment or decision because I don't have

enough information,” Justin Thomas said. “There's still a lot of things that have to play out.” Thomas joined Fowler and Jordan Spieth for a casual game over 18 holes, a perfect day to beat the crowd and get a good look at the course in U.S. Open conditions. It was cool and dry, and the course was fast. Given the dry forecast, this would appear to be a week where the USGA can

control conditions to its liking. Thomas was among several players who came over to LACC during the West Coast swing, either after Torrey Pines or before Riviera. It's not entirely a blind date. This will be the third time in the last nine years the U.S. Open goes to a course for the first time. The difference is that Erin Hills (2017) and Chambers Bay (2015)

had only opened about 10 years before getting a U.S. Open, and neither is on the list for another one.

LACC has history a lot of it and already is assured of another U.S. Open in 2039. Gil Hanse oversaw a restoration to the George Thomas Jr. design a dozen years ago to a course that first moved to this property in 1911. It offers just about everything.

And after all that, Thomas concluded, “I have absolutely no idea what the scores are going to be like.” The par 3s will get plenty of attention, and that was another first for Thomas the first time he has ever hit a 3-wood into a par 3 twice in one round. The first was at the 284-yard seventh. The other was at the 290-yard 11th hole.

Thomas mentioned the importance of hitting the fairway and getting it in the fairway, and that's not always the same thing. On the 380-yard 12th hole, Thomas and Fowler each hit a long iron into the fairway, leaving a wedge or short iron. Spieth hit driver over the edge of a bunker on the left side. The shot was perfect or looked that way. □

Associated Press

# NCAA champion athletes go to White House, where VP Kamala Harris celebrates them

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Vice President Kamala Harris saluted more than a thousand U.S. college athletes from championship teams who gathered Monday at the White House South Lawn, saying that sports have a “very special way of bringing people together.”

President Joe Biden had been scheduled to greet the athletes, but he had a root canal and was unable to attend the outdoor event on an overcast morning. The first of its kind assembly comes as collegiate sports have increasingly spilled into the political arena.

There was the recent dra-

ma over the champion women's basketball team from Louisiana State University going to the White House after first lady, Jill Biden, suggested that the runners-up from the University of Iowa should also come. The LSU team ultimately went to the White House despite initial resistance from star Angel Reese who said the team should visit former president Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle, instead. Collegiate sports have also faced questions about the participation of transgender athletes.

The focus on Monday was on the role that athletes play in U.S. society as role

models.

“You inspire so many across our country, people you may never meet,” Harris said.

“You remind all of us of what we can achieve.”

The event included 47 teams from 19 different sports, though there was one notable exception. The University of Georgia Bulldogs football team declined to attend the event because the date was “not feasible given the student-athlete calendar and time of year.”

The championship teams spanned the NCAA divisions that include large universities and smaller colleges. □



**Logan Eggleston, member of the University of Texas at Austin's NCAA national championship-winning college volleyball team, stands with Vice President Kamala Harris, former Massachusetts Governor and NCAA President Charlie Baker, right, and Doug Emhoff, second from right, after presenting Harris with an NCAA Championship trophy during College Athlete Day on the South Lawn of the White House, Monday, June 12, 2023.**

Associated Press